

*Stated Meeting, December 18, 1885.*

Present, 21 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Mr. Francis Jordan, Jr., a lately-elected member of the Society, was presented to the Chair and took his seat.

Donations for the Library were received from Prof. J. Pomialowsky, of St. Petersburg; the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, Kiel; *Zoölogischer Anzeiger*, Leipzig; *Flora Batava*, Leiden; the *Académie R. de Belgique*; *R. Accademia dei Lincei*, Roma; *Ecole des Mines and Société de Géographie*, Paris; *R. Academia de la Historia*, Madrid; *Geological Society*, *Meteorological Council*, *Journal of Forestry*, and *Nature*, London; *Philological Society*, Cambridge, England; the publishers of the *American Architect and Every Other Saturday*, Boston; *American Journal of Science*; the publishers of the *Critic*; *Brooklyn Entomological Society*; *Brooklyn Library*; *College of Pharmacy*, Messrs. Edward L. Wilson, Henry Phillips, Jr., and R. S. Culin, Drs. W. S. W. Rusehenberger and Charles A. Oliver, and the executors of Mr. Henry Seybert, of Philadelphia; *Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania*; *Johns Hopkins University*, editors of the *Journal of Philology*, and the *Chemical Journal*, Baltimore; the *War Department* and the *United States Coast and Geodetic Survey*; editors of the *Hoosier Naturalist*, Valparaiso, Ind.; Rev. Stephen D. Peet, of Chicago, Ill.; the *Iowa State Historical Society*; *University of California*; *Observatorio Astronomico Nacional de Tacubaya*, and the *Muséum National de Rio de Janeiro*.

Letters of envoy were received from the *R. Society of Melbourne*, Australia; the *Meteorological Commission*, London; the *Philosophical Society of Cambridge*; the *Canadian Institute*, Toronto, Canada.

A circular was read from the *Nat. Hist. and Physical Society of Geneva*, with the conditions of the *De Candolle* prize.

A circular was read from Stearns & Co., Detroit, Mich.,

offering for sale a collection of South American antiquities and inviting bids for the same.

The deaths of Dr. Albert H. Smith (December 14, 1885, æt. 51), and Henry S. Hagert, Esq. (December 18, 1885, æt. 52), were announced and, on motion, the President was authorized to appoint suitable persons to prepare their obituary notices.

Prof. Cope presented for the Transactions a paper by Miss Helen C. de S. Abbott, entitled "A Chemical Study of *Yucca angustifolia*," which was referred for examination to a committee consisting of Drs. Brinton, Genth and Houston.

Prof. Cope made a communication to the Society on the subject of the physical conditions of memory.

Nominations Nos. 1064-1075 were read.

The proposed change in the Laws and Regulations of the Society, submitted by the Board of Officers and Council at the last meeting, were taken up, and proof having been made that advertisements had been inserted in two daily Philadelphia newspapers, and that full notice had also been sent to the resident members of the Society, and it appearing that a quorum of at least three of the Officers and Council, and at least thirteen members of the Society were present, the Society proceeded to the consideration of the proposed alterations, which, after discussion, were unanimously adopted, as follows :

That Chapter I, Section 1, shall read as follows :

"The election of members shall be by ballot, and shall form part of the stated business of the meetings on the third Fridays of February, May, October and December."

That Chapter I, Section 5, shall read as follows :

"The names of the candidates and their places of abode shall be designated on the ballots. In voting, the names of the officers shall be called in the order of their seniority by the acting Secretary, the members thereafter depositing their ballots. The name of a candidate struck from any ballot or not voted for, shall be considered as a vote adverse to that candidate."

That Chapter I, Section 6, shall read as follows :

"After all the other business of the meeting shall have been disposed of, the ballot-box shall be opened by the Secretaries, or in their absence by two Tellers to be appointed by the presiding member, who shall then declare to the Society the result of the poll."

That chapter I, Section 13, be struck out.

That Chapter VII, Section 1, shall read as follows :

“The Officers and Council shall meet together stately on the second Friday of February, May and November, respectively, at the same hour in the evening at which the stated meetings of the Society are appointed to be held, and specially at such times as they may judge proper.”

That Chapter VIII, Section 5, shall read as follows :

“He shall give notice of the meetings of the Society and of the Officers and Council, and of all elections, and shall make all such publications on behalf of the Society as are not otherwise devolved by law or special order.”

That Chapter IX, Section 1, shall read as follows :

“The ordinary meetings of the Society shall be on the first and third Fridays of every month from September to June at 8 o'clock in the evening. Special meetings may be called at any time by order of the President, or in case of his absence or disability, by order of a Vice-President. And it shall not be lawful to take up, consider or transact at such special meeting any business other than that which is specified in the call and the notice for the meeting. And no business shall be taken up, considered or transacted at such special meeting, except by such number of qualified voters as would be requisite for a quorum, according to the Laws and Regulations of the Society.”

That Chapter IX, Section 2, shall read as follows :

“The Chair shall be taken by the presiding member at the hour appointed for the meeting.”

That Chapter IX, Section 6, shall read as follows :

“The Hall of the Society shall be open on every stated meeting at half-past seven o'clock in the evening.”

That the item “stated business of the meeting” in the Rules of Order (p. 19, Edition 1866) shall be transposed so as to immediately follow “Obituary notices of members read and announcements of the decease of members made and acted on;” and that the numbers prefixed to the respective items in the said order of business be altered to correspond with the said change.

That Section 12 of the said Rules of Order (p. 20, Edition 1866) be struck out and the following section be numbered 12.

Mr. Phillips presented a list, which he had prepared, of Officers and Councilors of the Society from 1769 to 1886, which was ordered to be printed.

On motion, the Secretaries were directed to have the Laws and Regulations of the Society, as adopted this evening, printed for the use of the members.

The report of the Finance Committee was presented and accepted and the appropriations passed for the year 1886.

And the meeting was adjourned by the President.

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*Stated Meeting, January 1, 1886.*

Present, 11 members.

President FRALEY, in the Chair.

Donations for the Library were received from the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope; Asiatic Society of Japan; Anthropologische Gesellschaft, Wien; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, &c., München; Astronomische Nachrichten, Kiel; Zoölogische Anzeiger, Leipzig; Archives Néerlandaises, Hærlém; R. Accademia dei Lincei, Rome; Osservatorio della Università di Torino; Société de Géographie, Société d'Anthropologie, Musée Guimet, Institut de France and Ecole des Mines, Paris; the Royal Society, Zoölogical Society, Geological Society, Royal Meteorological Society, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Meteorological Council, Greenwich Observatory and Nature, London; Canadian Institute; Mr. Parker Pillsbury of Concord, N. H.; the publishers of the American Architect and Every Other Saturday, Boston; Meteorological Observatory, New York; Journal of Medical Sciences, Dr. J. W. Holland, Prof. E. D. Cope, Messrs. Henry Phillips, Jr., E. A. Barber and R. S. Culin, Philadelphia; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Philosophical Society, Washington; the War Department, National Academy of Sciences, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C.; State Board of Health, Tennessee; Prof. H. S. Fricze of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Nebraska State Historical Society; Mr. Wm. M. Stewart of San Francisco; publisher of the West-American Scientist, San Diego, Cal.; and the Observatorio Meteorológico-Magnético Central de México.